

HEIRS OF CLEMENT GOSSELIN.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 251.]

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MARCH 2, 1860.

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Mr. FERRY, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the heirs and children of Major Clements Gosselin, a revolutionary officer, report :*

That this claim was favorably reported on the —— day of February, 1859. That report with the evidence has been re-examined, and your committee concurring entirely with that report adopt it, and report a bill in all respects the same as the one then reported.

Mr. CLAWSON, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following report :

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the heirs and children of Major Clement Gosselin, a revolutionary officer, praying for half-pay according to his rank, having had the same under consideration, report :*

That it appears from a letter from the Treasury Department, and the books containing the settlement of the accounts of Clement Gosselin, that he had been a captain in Colonel Hazen's regiment, and as such was settled with, for his commutation of five year's full pay in lieu of half-pay for life.

It is claimed by the petitioners that their father did enter the service as a captain in said regiment, and served in that capacity until very near the close of the war in 1783, and that before the war terminated he was promoted to the rank of a major in the same regiment, and that there was an omission on the part of the clerk or other person who kept the book, for want of knowledge of the fact of his promotion, or other cause unexplainable now, to credit him with his true rank. In support of this statement they appeal to original documents which they produce, and to a living witness, the substance of which your committee will briefly refer to.

John Monty, who is a credible person, testifies that he was a fifer in Captain Olivie's company in Colonel Hazen's regiment, in the continental line; that he was well acquainted with Captain Clement Gosselin, who was promoted to major before the close of the war, and was in the same regiment with him; that after the revolutionary war the said Major Gosselin resided at Point Au Roche, and died there in the month of March, A. D. 1818, and he attended his funeral.

It further appears that in establishing the proof of the heirship of the claimants, at a surrogates court, in the county of Clinton, in the State of New York, in the county where he died, the fact also appears that he was promoted to major from a captaincy in Hazen's regiment, and that he served to the end of the war. There are two original papers signed by Clement Gosselin as major; one of these an order or certificate bearing date at Fishkill, where the army or regiment then was, on the 10th of February, 1783, for the use or benefit of Jeans Goolet, a soldier in the same regiment; that there was such a soldier appears also by the returns of General Hazen. The other paper is executed after the war, bearing his official signature as major. In this he is represented as major commandant of the regiment commanded by Brigadier General Hazen, and purports to be a certificate for the benefit of Jean Baptist Morie, an officer of volunteers.

With all this evidence bearing on the question before them, your committee are constrained to believe that either by inadvertence, or loss of the records, or omission to return to the proper office his rank as major, that injustice has been done him and ought to be corrected. Your committee think that the difference between the pay of a captain and that of a major should now be made up to him, and they report a bill accordingly.